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Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Advocates for Human Rights	2
2.	Africa Humanitarian Action	4
3.	African Canadian Legal Clinic	5
4.	AIDS Information Switzerland	7
5.	Aland Islands Peace Institute	9
6.	American Association of University Women	11
7.	American Civil Liberties Union	13
8.	International Lactation Consultant Association	15
9.	IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association	17
10.	Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice	18
11.	Match International Centre	20
12.	Palestinian Centre for Human Rights	21
13.	Peter Hesse Foundation: Solidarity in Partnership for One World	23
14.	Women's Health and Education Organization	24
15.	WorldWIDE Network Nigeria: Women in Development and Environment	26

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1. Advocates for Human Rights

Special, 1996

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization is committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights in local, regional and international contexts. It investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents victims of violations; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; educates the public, policymakers and children; and promotes the universal acceptance of international human rights standards. These activities, which are especially related to the rights of women and children, further the development agenda of the Economic and Social Council.

The organization regularly supports the work of the United Nations at large by providing education about the United Nations human rights mechanisms and how individuals can engage with them. For example, it sponsored a presentation on the United Nations and the human rights record of the United States of America in Minneapolis, United States, on 16 December 2010.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2008: The organization participated in the review by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its seventy-second session of the United States, held in Geneva on 21 and 22 February.

2010: The organization participated in the ninth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, held in Geneva from 1 to 12 November, and in the forty-fifth session of the Committee against Torture, held in Geneva from 1 to 19 November.

2011: The organization participated in the following consultative meetings on strengthening United Nations treaty bodies, held in Geneva: first meeting of the Working Group on Follow-up of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies (under the inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies), on 12 January; the twenty-fourth general meeting of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, on 17 May; and the twelfth inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies, on 29 June. It also participated in the twelfth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, held in Geneva from 3 to 14 October; the 103rd session of the Human Rights Committee, held in Geneva from 17 October to 4 November; and the forty-seventh session of the Committee against Torture, held in Geneva from 31 October to 25 November.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

2008: The organization provided technical assistance to the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at a United Nations expert group meeting on good practices in legislation on violence against women, held in Vienna from 26 to 28 May. It also had a consultancy with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Georgia, as part of which it prepared a review of the findings of local experts on the implementation of an action plan on the elimination

of domestic violence and protection and support for its victims, and prepared recommendations on addressing the issues identified in the assessment report.

2009: The organization provided technical assistance to the Division for the Advancement of Women, UNODC and the Economic Commission for Africa at a United Nations expert group meeting on good practices in legislation to address harmful practices against women, held in Addis Ababa from 25 to 28 May. It also provided technical assistance to the Peacebuilding Commission seminar on peacebuilding and the role of diasporas, held in New York on 28 and 29 April, organized through the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). It undertook a project in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Global Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls to create modules on legislation and access to justice (2009-2011).

2010: It planned and held a conference with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on strategies to monitor the implementation of domestic violence laws, held in Sofia in October.

2011: It hosted, in Minneapolis, United States, a country visit by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in February, and contributed to her report to the Human Rights Council on the United States. It also held a consultancy with UN-Women for a regional expert meeting on enforcing domestic violence legislation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, held in Almaty in December.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization's initiatives in support of Millennium Development Goals 1 to 3 focused on South Asia (Nepal), Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the United States. Major activities included providing free primary education and a school feeding programme to more than 300 disadvantaged children in Nepal (Goals 1 and 2). Gender parity also featured in education policy and curricula, in accordance with Goal 3. Initiatives in support of Goal 3 include working through fact-finding, documentation, legal reform and training to eliminate violence against women and trafficking in women and girls, and to improve maternal health in numerous countries, including Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Morocco, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Turkey and the United States.

The organization also maintains the Stop Violence against Women website (www.stopvaw.org), an international forum for information, advocacy and change for women.

Additional information

During the period 2008-2011, the organization made numerous submissions of shadow reports to United Nations treaty bodies and stakeholder submissions to the Human Rights Council.

2. Africa Humanitarian Action

Special, 2008

Introduction

Africa Humanitarian Action is an international non-governmental organization that provides emergency, development and advocacy services targeting displaced and vulnerable communities throughout Africa. It operates in 17 African countries and, since receiving consultative status, has expanded its programmes into Cameroon, registered as a public charity and opened a liaison office in the United States. It is also a registered charity in Switzerland.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Africa Humanitarian Action maintains its aim of improving the living conditions of displaced persons and vulnerable communities throughout Africa. Its course of action remains the same.

Significant changes in the organization

Africa Humanitarian Action signed a status agreement with the Government of Ethiopia, under which it was granted quasi-diplomatic status. The organization registered as a public charity in the United States and obtained tax-exempt status under article 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization:

(a) Presented the keynote address at the midyear review meeting of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Consolidated Appeals Process, held in Geneva on 21 July 2009;

(b) Co-organized a symposium on reflections on international humanitarian interventions in Africa, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa and USA for Africa, from 21 to 23 September 2010 in Addis Ababa. Its trustee presented a paper on African-led interventions in human security;

(c) Served as rapporteur for the 2010 edition of the annual consultations of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and presented its report at the sixty-first session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, held in October 2010;

(d) Attended the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals meeting in Geneva on 22 February 2011 and participated, on behalf of NGOs, in a round-table discussion on food security issues in the Horn of Africa.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization:

(a) Participated in the Global Health Cluster meeting, led by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and hosted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), held in New York on 12 and 13 November 2008;

(b) Attended the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York from 2 to 13 March 2009;

(c) Participated in all meetings organized by the Global Humanitarian Platform from 2008 to 2010. On 3 February 2010, the President of the organization addressed the third meeting of the Platform, held in Geneva;

(d) Participated in informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector, held in New York on 14 and 15 June 2010;

(e) Attended the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 4 to 8 July 2011, and the sessions on education in Africa;

(f) Attended the annual consultations of UNHCR with NGOs in Geneva from 2008 to 2011. The President delivered an address on 28 June 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization collaborated with a large number of United Nations bodies and agencies in technical assistance and partnership activities.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization made efforts to support the attainment of six of the eight Millennium Development Goals in Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Liberia, Namibia, Rwanda, Somalia, the Sudan, Uganda and Zambia, where it is involved in local capacity development activities to reduce poverty and enhance resilience; provided formal and non-formal education, ranging from building schools to providing education materials; carried out income-generating and women's empowerment programmes, such as addressing sexual and gender-based violence; and provided curative and preventive health care, encompassing such areas as maternal health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS, to displaced and vulnerable communities. It carried out several advocacy activities. It observed World AIDS Day in Namibia with a month of activities. Similar events took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Rwanda and Uganda. It works in accordance with national strategies and United Nations bodies to achieve the Goals throughout Africa.

Additional information

Enhancing African institutions' capacity remains a challenge.

3. African Canadian Legal Clinic

Special, 2004

Introduction

The African Canadian Legal Clinic is a non-governmental, community-based organization that is based in Toronto, Canada. It has a provincial mandate.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Clinic is dedicated to combating systemic and institutional anti-Black racism. In this capacity, the Clinic engages in test case litigation, law reform, advocacy and public legal education at the national and international levels and has been involved in groundbreaking anti-racism and equality rights cases in Canada.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

(a) *Committee on the Rights of the Child*: The Clinic provided written submissions on the combined third and fourth periodic report of Canada to the Committee at its sixty-first session, held in Geneva from 17 September to 5 October 2012;

(b) *Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent*: Representatives of the Clinic attended meetings, made oral interventions, helped to develop recommendations for the consideration of the Working Group and liaised and worked with other NGOs at the ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions of the Working Group, held in Geneva from 12 to 16 April 2010, 28 March to 1 April 2011 and 30 April to 4 May 2012;

(c) *Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*: The Clinic submitted a report on the compliance by the Government of Canada with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to the Committee at its eightieth session, held in Geneva from 13 February to 9 March 2012. It also made an oral presentation during the day of thematic discussion on the theme "People of African descent of more recent migration from Africa";

(d) *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*: The Clinic submitted a report on the review of Canada's seventh periodic report to the Committee at its forty-second session, held in Geneva from 20 October to 7 November 2008;

(e) *Durban Declaration and Programme of Action*: Representatives of the Clinic attended meetings, made oral interventions, helped to develop recommendations, lobbied State delegates and/or liaised and worked with other NGOs at the following related events:

(i) High-level meeting of the General Assembly to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, held in New York on 22 September 2011;

(ii) Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009;

(iii) Second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 6 to 17 October 2008;

(iv) First substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 21 April to 2 May 2008.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Clinic coordinated several round-table sessions with the African Canadian community and the Independent Expert on minority issues in October 2009.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The Clinic was an active member of the Durban+10 Coalition. In this capacity, it, along with other NGOs, committed itself to the objectives of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and participated in daily events and panel discussions aimed at celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, further educating civil society about their contents and pressuring Governments to honour their commitments to eradicate racism, utilizing the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as a framework.

The Clinic wrote to officials of the Government of Canada at all levels to urge them to fund and develop activities and initiatives to commemorate and celebrate the International Year for People of African Descent in Canada.

The Clinic addressed the issues of poverty and poverty reduction in alternative reports to the following committees: Committee on the Rights of the Child (sixty-first session); Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (eightieth session); Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (thematic discussion on racial discrimination against people of African descent, forty-second session).

The Clinic was involved in developing the Colour of Poverty Disaggregated Data Project and the Municipal Race Equity Report Card. The former was a literature review outlining existing sources of disaggregated data in the justice, health, education and social service sectors. The latter is a tool developed to assess the level of commitment of Toronto mayoral candidates to issues affecting racialized communities in the city of Toronto.

4. AIDS Information Switzerland

Special, 2000

Introduction

AIDS Information Switzerland was founded in 1989 by doctors from Switzerland as a non-political and non-denominational association for the benefit of the public, in order to bring doctors' viewpoints increasingly into the AIDS discussion. On the basis of its strictly scientific-oriented activities, more than 600 people, predominantly doctors, dentists and pharmacists, including numerous professors and senior consultants, have joined the association. It is also supported by a scientific advisory council that includes experts from various medical fields.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The objectives of the organization are to provide information and promote action to stop the spread of HIV and sexually transmitted infections; to support persons infected with HIV and sexually transmitted infections; to disseminate accurate information on HIV and sexually transmitted infections; to inform the medical profession of scientific findings on HIV infection; to advise members of caring professions (doctors, nurses, teachers, psychologists, care workers, etc.) and persons with political and social responsibilities; to advise persons interested in issues relating to AIDS and sexually transmitted infections; and to advise HIV-positive

persons, AIDS sufferers or persons with sexually transmitted infections on an individual basis. The association supports the achievement of these aims mainly through: collaboration and information-sharing with experts in Switzerland and elsewhere, with scientific institutions and authorities, and with private organizations pursuing the same or similar aims; management of a documentation centre; publishing (production, translation, publication, distribution); organization of information events; provision of advice by telephone, in writing and in person; provision of financial resources to form a social fund; support for firms, organizations and authorities in their efforts to help HIV-positive persons and persons with sexually transmitted infections; and support for and implementation of projects helping to achieve the above-mentioned aims.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization has expanded its activities and objectives. As from the beginning of 2012, it has incorporated the issue of sexually transmitted infections into its work.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Every year, the organization issues a press release to newspapers and radio and television stations on the occasion of World AIDS Day. It invites representatives of the United Nations to its conferences. Its website is available in nine languages (English, Estonian, French, German, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian and Spanish). On that website, it publishes position papers from the United Nations, such as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) publication, *Making Condoms Work for HIV Prevention*.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the sessions of the Human Rights Council held in 2009, 2010 and 2011 in Geneva. It also took part in the Durban Review Conference in 2009. Its delegate from Argentina participated in various conferences about AIDS in South America.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2009, to mark its twentieth anniversary, the organization organized a symposium on future strategies to combat the HIV epidemic. Brian Williams, a representative of UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO), gave a presentation.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

From 2000 to 2008, the organization initiated, participated in and financed a HIV testing and counselling project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of Goals 4, 5 and 6. It was supported by a local NGO, Kataliko Actions pour l'Afrique, in Bukavu. Since 2008, the local NGO has worked without the organization's help. Throughout the years, the organization has sent more than 4.5 tons of medication and other medical equipment to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has distributed in excess of 90,000 leaflets and flyers. More than 35,000 people underwent voluntary testing and counselling in its two centres in

Bukavu and Kamituga. A total of 1,500 people tested HIV-positive and were sent to the local clinic to receive treatment.

The organization also launched information campaigns on the radio and in the press, reaching more than 1.4 million people. It distributed a music CD that featured famous African music. In recent years, it has constantly updated its website with new information. The website complies with the Health on the Net Foundation code of conduct for medical and health websites, demonstrating that it provides trustworthy health information. In 2010, it launched in Switzerland an information campaign in medical facilities with a brochure for young people, providing an update on HIV/AIDS in English, French, German and Italian. All brochures, leaflets and flyers are available free of charge. In 2012, it will publish a book on talking about sex and sexually transmitted infections.

Additional information

During its 20 years of activities, it has issued 60 publications (brochures, books, leaflets and flyers) and 30 scientific articles, in addition to organizing 16 symposiums and conferences. There are 4,613,000 copies of its leaflets in various languages. Its website registers 500,000 users and 5 million clicks per year.

5. Aland Islands Peace Institute

Special, 2004

Introduction

The Aland Islands Peace Institute undertakes practical and research work on peace and conflict issues in a broadly defined sense, with Aland and its special status under international law as a starting point. The Institute focuses on autonomy, minority issues, demilitarization and conflict management and resolution. It is an independent charitable foundation that was established in 1992. It bases its activities on two cornerstones: knowledge and action.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Institute has a limited field of activities and focuses on minority protection, ethnic conflicts, women's rights and disarmament/demilitarization. Its activities relating to the United Nations have been concentrated accordingly, in view of its limited resources.

Significant changes in the organization

Considerable deepening and internationalization of areas of expertise took place during the reporting period.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In August 2009, a youth exchange and workshop, known as "Living Bridges", was arranged. Some 30 young women from Aland, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Finland and Sweden took part. The theme of the meeting was "Equality and conflict solution, including Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)". During the period covered, the Institute developed, in cooperation with other partners, a methodology for

empowerment of young women and men. The results of this work were finalized in 2012 and are to be submitted to the United Nations in 2013.

On 30 March 2010, the day of the demilitarization of Aland, a seminar on peace work was held in Mariehamn. Persons who had contributed to peace internationally, including in United Nations missions, shared their experiences. The possibilities of using Alandic experiences in peace work were discussed. In June 2010, the Institute hosted 22 civil society representatives from Armenia and Azerbaijan, who visited Aland to study autonomy and demilitarization and discussed peace issues.

During the period 2008-2011, the Institute published 12 reports on minority and indigenous rights, self-government, participation, the Aland example and gender equality methods.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Rhodri Williams worked at the Institute from 2006 to 2008 as a guest researcher. One of his main activities was the drafting of a manual on the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. He attended several related meetings.

In December 2011, the Institute provided the Governments of Aland and Finland with input and expertise in view of the seminar entitled "Settling international disputes: lessons from the past, challenges for the future", held in New York on 18 January 2012 in cooperation with the International Peace Institute.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In October 2010, the Institute and the national committee for UNIFEM in Finland organized a lecture on whether genocide could be prevented, which was held in Mariehamn.

In November 2008, the Institute was consulted by Patrick Thornberry, who was working with Gay McDougall, the then Independent Expert on minority issues, within the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on minority education. The work produced in that regard was later adopted as document A/HRC/10/11/Add.1 by the Human Rights Council.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization provided support through the Swedish Water House.

Additional information

In November 2011, the Institute published a report on the relevance for international conflict resolution of the Aland example and its components. An international conference was held in Mariehamn, attended by diplomats, politicians, researchers and civil society representatives in Finland and in the Nordic region. It is argued in the publication that limited attention has been paid to the role of territorial autonomy as a possible conflict resolution tool. Moving beyond the formal aspects of the division of competences between centre and periphery, the report develops an analytical tool for understanding the durability and robustness of evolving autonomy arrangements. Furthermore, it analyses how the Aland example and its three major components (autonomy, demilitarization and identity safeguards) have been used in

specific disputes and conflict situations. The report represents a unique combination of theoretical insights with the experiences of well-known diplomats and politicians.

6. American Association of University Women

Special, 2008

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, addressing women's needs throughout their lifespan. The work of its some 100,000 members, 1,000 branches and 600 college and university partners builds upon more than 130 years of public participation. Since 2008, it has increased collaboration and advocacy with agencies at Headquarters, developed an international delegations programme and enhanced social media and print outreach, stressing global gender equity.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Its public policy promotes peace, justice and human rights, supports a strengthened United Nations and advocates the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In support of its efforts for the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, it signed a letter supporting ratification addressed to the President of the United States in 2009, attended United States Senate hearings in 2010, and voted for a national resolution in 2007, in which it urged communication with senators and participation in the national working group. It works with the Campaign for US Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and joined its national symposium in support of ratification, held in Washington, D.C., in 2009. It undertakes advocacy work for the United Nations through the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. Each year, members actively support Human Rights Day, International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. Since 1993, its members have worked with the Working Group on Girls, a coalition of more than 80 NGOs promoting girls' rights in the work of the United Nations. Members have joined the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations, a founding organization of Academic Impact, and the Department of Public Information to present conferences for educators in New York and Atlanta, United States.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization:

(a) Submitted a written statement, with the Working Group on Girls, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third session, held in New York from 2 to 13 March 2009 (E/CN.6/2009/NGO/22);

(b) Sent five representatives to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York from 1 to 12 March 2010, and submitted a written statement, with the Working Group on Girls (E/CN.6/2010/NGO/16);

(c) Sent four representatives to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York from 22 February to 4 March 2011, where

its 2010 study entitled "Why so few? Women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics" attracted international attention;

(d) Made an oral intervention at a preparatory expert panel for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held on 4 March 2010;

(e) Held observer status at an expert group meeting on gender, science and technology convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 28 September to 1 October 2010, for which it prepared a paper (EGM/ST/2010/OP.3), sent its chief of strategic advancement and contributed to the meeting recommendations. Its work is cited in footnote 4 of the report of the meeting (EGM/ST/2010/REPORT);

(f) Made two oral interventions at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (see E/CN.6/2011/12). It also submitted two written statements, one with the Working Group on Girls (E/CN.6/2011/NGO/60) and another in which it called for girls to make greater achievements in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (E/CN.6/2011/NGO/17);

(g) Collaborated on three NGO panels, with presentations by its researchers;

(h) Attended the forty-fourth and forty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, held in New York from 20 July to 7 August 2009 and 11 to 29 July 2011, respectively;

(i) Participated in informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector, held in New York on 14 and 15 June 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

It cooperates with United Nations bodies. It is a member of the United States national committee for UN-Women and supports all aspects of the Entity's mission. The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative discussed how American Association of University Women fellowship recipients might build science, technology, engineering and mathematics mentoring opportunities with Initiative teachers.

It joined the 7 Billion Actions campaign, under the auspices of UNFPA, in November 2011. It also participated in an expert group meeting organized by UNESCO for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization encourages active member involvement and partnerships for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

With regard to Goal 3, on promoting gender equality and empowering women, it:

(a) Awarded $3 million in fellowships to 200 women in low-income countries;

(b) Awarded $80,000 in international grants for community-based programmes;

(c) Conducted visits to Cuba, Israel and South Africa to engage with women leaders in multiple sectors;

(d) Implemented leadership programmes affecting women worldwide.

With regard to Goal 1, on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, it:

(a) Collaborates with CARE to raise awareness;

(b) Cooperates with the United Nations Information Centre and the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., on issues such as hunger, human rights and politics;

(c) Implements a grant programme aimed at economic security for women and girls.

With regard to Goal 2, on achieving universal primary education, it:

(a) Carries out research to support public education that promotes equity;

(b) Carries out research into the gender pay gap, women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and sexual harassment in schools, with a view to strengthening girls' secondary education;

(c) Raises awareness of and supports girls' education through events, advocacy, education and philanthropy.

7. American Civil Liberties Union

Special, 1996

Significant changes in the organization

Structure: In April 2010, the Union created four activity centres (democracy, equality, justice and liberty) to house related Union programmes. They foster collaborative initiatives among programmes working on similar goals. The human rights programme, along with the projects on national security and speech, privacy and technology, comprise the Center for Democracy.

Membership: The Union's membership has increased since the submission of its previous figures. There are 436,969 individual members, including persons from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Guam.

Changes in funding: The funding of the Union has increased since the submission of its previous figures. As at 31 March 2011, the total assets of the Foundation stood at $376,124,099, with total liabilities of $87,287,126. The total support and revenue stood at $76,826,572 and total expenses at $80,497,335. The total assets of the Union and the Foundation were $387,334,981. Total liabilities were $105,789,335, total support and revenue $106,384,190 and total expenses $108,968,727.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Union participated in the following meetings:

(a) Seventy-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, held in Geneva from 18 February to 7 March 2008 (the Union participated on 21 and 22 February);

(b) Seventh session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 3 to 28 March 2008;

(c) Forty-eighth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, held in Geneva from 19 May to 6 June 2008;

(d) First session of the Forum on Minority Issues, held in Geneva on 15 and 16 December 2008;

(e) Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York from 1 to 12 March 2010;

(f) Ninth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, held in Geneva from 1 to 12 November 2010;

(g) Sixteenth session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 28 February to 25 March 2011;

(h) Seventeenth session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 30 May to 17 June 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Visits of special rapporteurs, working groups and independent experts: During the following visits to the United States, the Union organized meetings with affected communities and authorities, in addition to testifying about relevant human rights issues: Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (30 April-18 May 2008); Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (18 May-6 June 2008); Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions or killings (16-30 June 2008); Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (July 2009); Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context (November 2009); Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (24 January-7 February 2011); and Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti (September 2011).

Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances: In July 2009, the Union, together with Alkarama and Reprieve, requested that the Working Group should investigate the enforced disappearance, in October 2005, of Mustafa Setmariam Nasar at the hands of the Government of the United States.

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: In February 2010, the Union requested the Special Rapporteur to intervene on behalf of a mentally ill prisoner who had been subjected to severe abuse in solitary confinement in Montana State Prison.

Independent Expert on minority issues, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants: The Union wrote to the experts in July 2011, requesting a public statement in which they would condemn anti-immigrant laws in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: To celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration, the Union created a video and released a publication.

Treaty ratification and implementation: The Union has lobbied the Government of the United States to ratify treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It has lobbied for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture.

Human rights workshops: The Union continues to organize and participate in workshops to educate lawyers and activists on effective strategies for implementing the international human rights framework in their domestic advocacy and litigation.

8. International Lactation Consultant Association

Special, 1996

Introduction

The International Lactation Consultant Association is the professional association for international board-certified lactation consultants, with more than 6,000 members worldwide. It is an NGO in consultative status with several United Nations agencies, including WHO.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Association's mission is to advance the profession of lactation consulting worldwide through leadership, advocacy, professional development and research. It facilitates networking among lactation consultants and other professionals interested in promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding. It establishes guidelines for competent, ethical and evidence-based lactation consultant practice, in addition to fostering the development of professional standards and ethical practice for lactation consultants. It informs all health-care professionals of the importance of human milk and breastfeeding and the consequences of artificial feeding. It serves as a professional and authoritative advisory body for women and children's health. It cooperates with organizations with similar aims and objectives. It stimulates and supports research in all aspects of lactation and infant feeding. It supports the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and its subsequent relevant resolutions.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2008, the Association partnered with the Canadian Lactation Consultant Association, a multinational affiliate, with bundled membership. In 2009, it assisted with the formation of the Lactation Consultants of Australia and New Zealand, the third multinational affiliate of the Association, with bundled membership. In addition, the Israel Association of Certified Lactation Consultants (2009) and the Korean Lactation Consultant Association (2011) were accepted as international

affiliates. To reflect this, the Board of Directors changed the title of the External Affairs Committee to "Global Outreach Committee" to enable a better focus on global issues.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Through its representatives to UNICEF, the Association has been an active member of the child rights and health caucuses, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Nutrition Working Group and the NGO Committee on HIV/AIDS. Through its WHO delegate, the Association works with Maria del Carmen Casanovas, the designated Technical Officer for nutrition. The Association's liaisons attend meetings of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and support the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. They are core partners of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action. Each year, the Association hosts an international conference. Previous speakers have been Mary Renfrew (national policies), Mark Cregan (breastfeeding as a human rights issue), Chris Mulford (gender workshop), Randa Saadeh, Carmen Casanovas, Hilary Creed and Adriano Cattaneo. Sessions include the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, breastfeeding in emergencies and cultural factors in Africa, Australia, China, Ethiopia, France, Malaysia, the Russian Federation and Uganda. Relevant publications are the *Journal of Human Lactation*, a position paper on the role and impact of the international board-certified lactation consultant, a paper on the risks of not breastfeeding and an electronic clinician's breastfeeding triage tool.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Association's liaison attended all meetings of relevant United Nations NGO committees and sessions of the Commission for the Status of Women. The Association is part of a breastfeeding advocacy team within the United Nations. It was represented at each session of the WHO Executive Board and World Health Assembly from 2008 to 2011. In each of those sessions, it prepared and delivered a statement on relevant agenda items.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Association and the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action worked together on issues relating to donor human milk banking. The Association and the World Alliance also jointly sponsored a fellowship to travel and work with the World Alliance on outreach and advocacy projects at its headquarters in Penang, Malaysia. The Association also worked to draft a statement in relation to breastfeeding advocacy for the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (Goal 1): The very basis of the Association's existence is the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding as the normal nutrition for infants. This affects the health of the infant, mother and community.

Promote gender equality and empower women (Goal 3): The Association collaborates on the gender assessment practice tool for lactation consultants.

Reduce child mortality (Goal 4): The Association has published several position papers, including: "Facts about breastfeeding in an emergency, especially for relief workers", (available in English, French and Spanish); "Facts about breastfeeding in an emergency, especially for health workers" (available in English, French and Spanish); "Emergency preparedness checklist for breastfeeding mothers" (a kit for World Breastfeeding Week 2009); "Background information on breastfeeding: a vital emergency response — are you ready?" (a kit for World Breastfeeding Week 2009); and "10 more reasons to breastfeed!" (a flyer, available in English and Spanish). A position paper on HIV and breastfeeding is being updated in conjunction with the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action. The Association is in a global partnership with the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, the International Baby Food Action Network, La Leche League International, Wellstart International and the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine.

Ensure environmental sustainability (Goal 7): The Association actively advocates an environmentally sustainable human product (breast milk) that leaves no damaging footprint on the environment.

9. IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association

Special, 2004

Introduction

The IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association is based in Rome.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The main aim of the Association is human rights education, together with the advancement of women, sustainable development and peace education.

Significant changes in the organization

On 6 May 2008, the by-laws of the Association were changed and registered in Rome (copy sent to the United Nations in the same year).

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

From 2008 to 2011, the Association submitted written statements during the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, in both New York and Geneva. On 4 September 2008, during the sixty-first annual conference for non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, held in Paris, a workshop was organized on the importance of human rights education and learning as way of peace and communication among peoples. On 5 July 2011, during the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, a joint parallel event was held on the role of education in the Mediterranean area.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Association has always participated in meetings of the Economic and Social Council, in both New York and Geneva, including by making oral statements. It also participated actively in the sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and in

the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in 2009, 2010 and 2011. In November 2009, it participated in the Beijing+15 Regional Review Meeting organized by the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Association's cooperation with United Nations bodies is not yet as developed as it would like because its members are all volunteers and the Association suffers from a significant lack of funds. In 2009, it began organizing a network of NGOs of Mediterranean countries in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council with the support of the Non-Governmental Organization Branch of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs. The Association hopes, after the cessation of activities caused by the Arab Spring in 2011, to resume work in 2012.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Initiatives were launched in Italy and Tunisia to favour intercultural dialogue and better communication through training courses for teachers, students and families in 2008 and 2009. During the period March-June 2010, the Association organized, together with the University of Salerno, a training course entitled "Towards a sustainable society".

In Geneva, it participated in 2009, 2010 and 2011 in the yearly conferences organized by an NGO, OCAPROCE International, on the economic, social and cultural rights of women.

It also participates in the NGO committees on women and on human rights, in Geneva.

10. Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice

Special, 2004

Introduction

The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice is committed to fostering peace, cultivating justice and creating a safer world. It was established in 2000 to work to improve the lives of those caught in the web of armed conflict and human rights abuses. In collaboration with local partners around the world, it works to build peace with justice. It has field projects under way in Guatemala, Nepal, the Philippines and West Africa and is currently expanding into Cambodia, Colombia and Kenya.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of the Institute is to assist in the transition and recovery from conflict and to facilitate collaboration among Government leaders, civil society and security groups. The Institute offers workshops, dialogue processes and venues for advancement of peacemaking techniques and understanding of the roots and consequences of conflict.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Between 2008 and 2011, the Institute held international conferences, the reports and outcome documents of which were submitted to the United Nations. These included conferences on crafting human security in an insecure world (2008) and on United Nations resolutions on women, peace and security (2010), at which participants looked at Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). A joint statement from the 2010 conference co-conveners (the Institute, UNIFEM, the International Action Network on Small Arms, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security) and delegates (175 people from 47 countries) was submitted to the Security Council to be discussed as part of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000).

Another integral component of the Institute is education of the San Diego, United States, community about the workings of the United Nations through public awareness and outreach. The Institute holds numerous informational events on topics relating to conflict and peacebuilding. Some of the people who have spoken as part of its distinguished lecture series include former and current United Nations officials, such as Louise Arbour (2008), Jan Egeland (2008), Jan Eliasson (2009) and Radhika Coomaraswamy (2011). United Nations officials such as Antonio Mazzitelli (UNODC) have been invited to speak with young people from San Diego and northern Mexico for the Institute's WorldLink Program. Each year, the Institute holds events to celebrate United Nations Charter Day, United Nations Day, the International Day of Peace and the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Late in 2011, the Institute began arranging an art exhibit, entitled "Architects of peace", which includes many United Nations officials, including the former Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Delegations from the Institute participated in the fifty-second, fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Institute presented parallel events at each session and reported back thereon at the annual celebration of International Women's Day in San Diego. Material presented included Women PeaceMaker films, conference reports and special event materials on peacebuilding and the arts.

Institute staff also participated in peacebuilding programmes with United Nations colleagues in Mexico (2009), the United States (2010), the Dominican Republic (2011), The Hague (2011) and current field locations, including Nepal (2008-2011) and Cambodia (2011). Topics have included gender, religion and security issues. Local Institute country partners have also made presentations in United Nations forums and at events sponsored by the United Nations. One example is Shobha Shrestha, an Institute country partner in Nepal, who frequently gives presentations at programmes for action on small arms.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Institute co-convened international conferences with United Nations partners, including UNIFEM and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (2008) and UNIFEM, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (2010). The Institute received

funding from UN-Women to convene Women PeaceMaker Asia regional network meetings in the Philippines (2011) and Cambodia (2011). The Institute also partners with the United Nations Association San Diego to conduct local events.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Although the Institute is not directly engaged in United Nations development projects, its programmes reflect the vision, education and mutual efforts required to achieve many of these global principles. The Institute has brought attention in San Diego to the Millennium Development Goals through its Women PeaceMaker programme. Two of the women peacemakers, Marta Benavides (El Salvador) and Wahu Kaara (Kenya), are very involved in specifically supporting the Goals through their work and have worked with the United Nations on this topic. Both highlighted the importance of the Goals during their presentations at the Institute to the San Diego community. The Deputy Special Envoy for Haiti, Paul Farmer, also spoke about the Goals during his speech at the Institute in 2009, as did Radhika Coomaraswamy in 2011.

11. Match International Centre

Special, 1996

Introduction

Match International Centre was created in 1976 by two Canadian women, Norma E. Walmsley and Suzanne Johnson-Harvor, following their attendance at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in Mexico City in 1975. The first centre of its kind anywhere in the world, Match was created to match the needs and resources of Canadian women with those of women in the South. It is an international development agency run by women working in partnership with women in the South.

From its beginnings, the focus of Match's work has been on initiatives developed by women for women. It supports initiatives that are identified by women in the global South, which are led and implemented by women, and which are innovative in their context. This approach is based on Match's belief that women's development must be considered within their own context and, for strategies to succeed, women's views and agendas must be taken into consideration. Social change and women's development must happen from within and must empower those most directly affected. Match's programmes are based on the understanding that women must identify their own priorities and be supported to address these on their own terms.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Match seeks to create a world in which women have a say about their lives, their community and their country, and are decision makers in all areas and at all levels of society. Match supports initiatives that are identified by women in the South, which are led and implemented by women, and which are innovative in their context.

These initiatives must be directed by and empower those most directly affected — social change should not be externally directed. Awareness-raising and capacity-

building from within are essential to success. Education and training are key parts of this capacity-building. The development of women as autonomous, rights-based citizens is fundamental to social change and community development. Consequently, strategies for change must take into account the diverse realities of women and must respect their efforts at self-determination. The challenges of advancing gender equity need to be based on women's articulated needs. Connections between women and organizations are essential for success; it is crucial to stay in touch, promote networks, build coalitions and work together.

Significant changes in the organization

Match has begun a new partnership with the World University Service of Canada, which will allow Match to continue its work with women in the development world, to form new partnerships and to explore new programming areas.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Partnership with the Centro de Desarrollo de la Mujer Negra Peruana to promote the participation of Afro-Peruvian women in leadership roles following the objectives of the International Year for People of African Descent.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the fifty-first and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

There is no information.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The representative of the Centro de Estudios y Promoción Afroperuano (LUNDÚ), Monica Carillo, a Match partner, participated in a documentary promoting Goal 3. Some Match partners have created multiple links with a variety of stakeholders, including Government ministries and programmes. Some of those programmes are linked to national economic and social policies and contribute to three of the Goals.

12. Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Special, 2000

Introduction

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an NGO based in Gaza. It is a non-profit company, dedicated to protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law and upholding democratic principles in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists (Geneva), the International Federation for Human Rights (Paris), the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (Copenhagen), the International Legal Assistance Consortium (Stockholm), the World Coalition against the Death Penalty (Montreuil, France) and the Arab Organization for Human Rights (Cairo). It is a recipient of the 1996 Human Rights

Prize of the French Republic, the 2002 Bruno Kreisky Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights, the 2003 International Services Human Rights Award and the 2009 Human Rights Prize of Andalucia. The Centre was established in 1995.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Centre was established by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists in order to protect human rights and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards; create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society, while promoting democratic culture within the Palestinian society; and support all efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights with regard to self-determination and independence in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions.

The work of the Centre is conducted through documentation and investigation of human rights violations, provision of legal aid, counselling and training for both individuals and groups, and preparation of research articles relevant to such issues as the human rights situation and the rule of law. The Centre also provides comments on Palestinian draft laws and urges the adoption of legislation that incorporates international human rights standards and basic democratic principles. To achieve its goals, the Centre has recruited a committed staff of well-known human rights lawyers and activists.

Significant changes in the organization

The Centre recently expanded its general assembly to include a number of well-known Palestinian figures. It now comprises Reyad al-Zaanoun, Nadia Abu Nahla, Hashem al-Thalathini, Raji Sourani, Tareq Abdul Shafi, Eyad al-Alami, Issa Saba, Ibtesam Zaqqout, Jaber Wishah, Hamdi Shaqoura and Mona al-Shawa.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Centre undertook several activities to advance the achievement of the agenda of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations. It has participated in international and regional conferences and meetings, undertaken advocacy and lobbying activities and cooperated with international delegations and figures. For example, on 20 May 2009, the Centre received the head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Eva Tomic, and a Human Rights Officer, Tariq Mukhaimer. On 1 March 2010, the Centre received the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Filippo Grandi. From 21 to 25 March 2011, the Centre's international legal officer participated in the sixteenth session of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Centre regularly participates in, and contributes to the work of, numerous United Nations-based working groups and agencies, such as the Protection Cluster Working Group (sharing information and coordination) and its subgroups: the Legal Task Force (to build response capacity through the training of relevant partners at the local level), the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict (dealing with violations of children's rights in the Gaza Strip) and the Core

Group on Access-Restricted Areas (where there is a particular focus on accountability).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Centre has cooperated with several United Nations bodies for the past four years. For example, in February 2008, a special agreement was signed between the Centre and UNRWA to develop a new project. In June 2009, it cooperated with the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. On 20 June 2010, Mona al-Shawa participated in a discussion panel arranged by UNIFEM on a strategic plan to eliminate violence against women.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The Centre works to promote economic, social and cultural rights (including the rights to education and adequate housing, and supports farmers and fisherfolk in their right to work) and women's rights (legal aid and awareness).

13. Peter Hesse Foundation: Solidarity in Partnership for One World

Special, 2000

Introduction

The NGO is structured as a foundation, formally registered in Germany on 7 December 1983 and in Haiti, under the name "Fondation Peter Hesse", on 17 November 1988.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of the Foundation is to help needy people in developing countries, especially as survival help for children and, wherever possible, as help for self-help.

Significant changes in the organization

The Foundation had concentrated its work on early childhood development, the first goal of Education for All, in Haiti and, four years ago, it extended its work to Côte d'Ivoire. Early childhood development is seen as a precondition to successfully achieving universal primary education, the second of the Millennium Development Goals.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

At the start of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, in 2008, and in the following years, the director of the Foundation continued his advocacy work among civil society in German-speaking countries in Europe (Austria, Germany and Switzerland), based on a compendium of best practices in human development. The compendium, published by the director, assembles 24 cases from work in developing countries in the field of eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (Millennium Development Goal 1) and touches upon most of the other seven Goals, especially the second (achieving universal primary education), the third (promoting gender quality and empowering women) and the eighth

(developing a global partnership for development). Other contributions in the compendium deal with rebuilding societies after armed conflicts, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and empowerment of people without power, and on microfinance models in development.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the period 2008-2011, the director of the Foundation frequently participated in the work of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In May 2008, the director of the Foundation attended the Biennale on Education in Africa, held in Maputo and organized by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa, at which he presented the Foundation's model of early childhood education, as used in Haiti, to African education officials as proof of the feasibility of the model as a precondition to attain the second Millennium Development Goal and the Education for All goals.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

In December 2008, the director of the Foundation published a book in English, *Vision Works*, in which he documented the practical feasibility of training qualified teachers in less-favourable environments in developing countries, with a view to attaining the Education for All goals with regard to early and primary education and the second Millennium Development Goal. He also suggested feasible ways to strengthen the Economic and Social Council in the spirit of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference in 1944, which led to the creation of the United Nations.

Additional information

Directly pursuing the second Millennium Development Goal (achieving universal primary education) and contributing to the first (eradicating extreme poverty and hunger), the Foundation continued to train an average of 30 Haitian teachers per year with the participation of its Haitian partners to help to fulfil the growing need for teachers in Haiti. This work continued until the earthquake in January 2010, which destroyed the teacher training centre in Port-au-Prince and four of the Foundation's partner schools in Port-au-Prince and Léogâne. Since that enforced interruption, the Foundation has attempted to restart regular teacher training in Liancourt, which is considered safer in the event of earthquakes.

In 2008, the Foundation resumed supporting visits of its partner schools in Haiti to help its Haitian partners to fulfil the need for more teachers.

14. Women's Health and Education Organization

Special, 2008

Introduction

The Women's Health and Education Organization is dedicated to women and children's well-being and health care worldwide.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A website (www.womenshealthsection.com) was launched to provide information on everyday issues associated with women's health. This e-learning initiative is active in many countries, linked to 30,800 courses in the developing world and receives 1 million visitors per month. As a web-enabled platform, it allows for multiple forms of collaboration worldwide. The organization will cover the costs of the research and development of its e-learning initiative. Continuing medical education services will be provided free of charge to the countries identified by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as least developed countries.

The organization remains committed to providing health education and advocacy to improve neonatal health outcomes. It will also provide evidence-based medical information to in-country partners and health-care providers in Africa and Latin America in order to reach 3 million people with reproductive health information, especially on family planning, by 2015.

The organization will continue its commitment to creating health-promoting schools, recognizing that adolescents find themselves under strong peer pressure to engage in high-risk behaviour. The spread of HIV/AIDS among adolescents is a growing phenomenon, while the traditional problem of sexually transmitted diseases continues to increase. The organization will continue to emphasize self-esteem, family planning, the importance of postponing the first pregnancy and the ability to withstand peer pressure.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization took part in the high-level panel discussion on the theme "The New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Millennium Development Goals: progress, challenges and the way forward", which took place at Headquarters on 7 October 2011.

On 25 February 2011, it sponsored and hosted a forum on improving maternal health through education, which was part of parallel events at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. On 8 April 2011, it participated in an electronic discussion hosted by UNDP on women and poverty. On 10 February 2010, it participated in an electronic discussion hosted by UNDP, in which it responded to the following question: What are your core policy messages for United Nations intergovernmental decision-making?

From 2 to 13 May 2011, it attended the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in New York. From 3 to 12 February 2010, it attended the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development, in New York. On 14 and 15 June 2010, it participated in informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector, in New York. From 30 August to 1 September 2010, it attended the sixty-third annual conference for non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, held in Melbourne, Australia. It presented its initiative in maternal and child health in a forum hosted by the media and Government of Australia, which was well received.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization is developing its essential knowledge portal for maternal, newborn and child health to advance the causes of peace, health and development with WHO. The organization was accepted as a member of the WHO Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health on 12 May 2011. Other United Nations bodies and initiatives involved in the project are the Department of Public Information, the United Nations University, UNESCO, UNDP and the "Every woman, every child" initiative.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Achieving universal access to reproductive health is the organization's mission. The demand for health for all is one of the defining movements of the twenty-first century. The organization is leading the way in this movement and redefining continuing medical education. It is the organization's privilege to work with United Nations partners on the Millennium Development Goals, with special focus on the fifth Goal (improving maternal health). Creating cultures that care is the organization's goal.

Additional information

The organization's president, Rita Luthra, has been a reviewer for the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* since 2006 and has provided time and expertise in reviewing papers for it at least three to four times a year since 2006. The organization's work has been published in the *UN Chronicle* and *Bulletin* five times.

15. WorldWIDE Network Nigeria: Women in Development and Environment

Special, 2008

Aims and purposes of the organization

(a) To nurture grass-roots participation and strengthen the role of women in environmental conservation, solid waste management, water and sanitation;

(b) To develop small and medium-sized enterprises through skills acquisition, microcredit, counselling and training for women and young people;

(c) To give technical assistance to NGOs, community-based organizations, women's groups and men's groups to design programmes and execute projects that will lead to sustainable development;

(d) To train women and young people in reproductive health and prevention of HIV/AIDS;

(e) To promote programmes and activities that will lead to women's empowerment, gender equality and good governance in Nigeria.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization has significantly improved the way that it works over the past four years. There have been training sessions for staff and members on its areas of focus.

Since the granting of special consultative status, members have been able to participate in many United Nations conferences, giving them access to policy documents and learning material distributed there. The organization has therefore designed its programmes and training manuals in line with the final outcomes of the conferences.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has contributed significantly to the work of the United Nations through advocacy and awareness-raising meetings with community leaders, in addition to capacity-building training for grass-roots women on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the domestication of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It has reproduced and distributed learning materials to raise awareness in communities.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The chief executive and some key members have participated in many United Nations conferences, including in New York and at the sessions of the World Urban Forum. The chief executive chaired some NGO and women caucus meetings at the United Nations, and also contributed to drafting and presenting NGO written statements during sessions of the commissions on sustainable development and social development. They also participated in many networking events and contributed to reports submitted by civil society organizations.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has cooperated with the Nigeria offices of UNICEF and UNDP in programme implementation. It established non-formal education centres for out-of-school young people and early child centres, in addition to launching programmes relating to girl-child education. The organization also implemented the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All programme of UNICEF by, among other things, establishing environmental school clubs and training grass-roots women and artisans in latrine construction. In addition, the organization monitored and evaluated projects to determine the beneficiary impact of the interventions of these United Nations agencies in Nigeria. The organization documented and analysed the situation of women and children in slum areas in selected cities in Nigeria.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization has raised the awareness of grass-roots women leaders of the Millennium Development Goals. It has monitored and evaluated the projects and programmes implemented by the Government and its agencies in Nigeria to meet the Goals. Reports produced by the organization form part of the overall reports submitted by Nigeria on the Goals. The exercise has encouraged the contractors handling the projects to deliver on time and according to project specification. The organization has been able to identify and report some erring contractors. Its actions have encouraged the communities to step in and maintain the projects.

Additional information

The organization is now a member of the NGO Committee for Social Development. It is also working with other civil society organizations on the issue of violence against women and girls. Many abused women are ashamed to come out and report their cases. They lack information regarding the legal provisions and where to go to seek help. The organization is now working with young people in selected communities to report cases of violence against women. It is hoped that, if the younger generation is taught early to shun violence and embrace alternative conflict resolution strategies, violence against women and girls will become a thing of the past.